

Amendments to the Claims:

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (currently amended) A plant Plant (10) for the continuous packing of food products (11) in modified atmosphere, comprising a machine (12) for continuous packing in a modified atmosphere of the food products and a conveyor (13) for continuous sequential feeding of the food products to the machine, wherein before characterized in that at the entrance of the machine, along a transport section of the conveyor near the entrance of the machine, (12)-means (21)-are present that temporarily submit the food products continuously a product fed by the conveyor (13)-to vacuum before the food products are it is packed in modified atmosphere in the machine.

Claim 2 (currently amended) The plant Plant according to claim 1, characterized in that said means (21) comprise at least a bell (22) connected to means (23) for the suction of air from inside the bell it-and for the input of modified atmosphere, the bell being supported by movement means (24, 26)-for its synchronous movement along a transport section of the conveyor near the entrance of the packing machine to enclose in said section one of the food products a product under the bell it-and submit said one of the food products it-to said vacuum and to said modified atmosphere.

Claim 3 (currently amended) The plant Plant according to claim 2, characterized in that the movement means comprise a carousel (24)-transporting the bell (22)-along a closed section that comprises said transport section of the conveyor and means (26, 28, 29)-of controlled lowering of the bell onto the conveyor.

Claim 4 (currently amended) The plant Plant—according to claim 1, characterized in that the controlled lowering means comprise a support (26)—of the bell that can be vertically lowered against the action of the elastic means (27)—keeping the bell in a raised position and actuator means (28, 29)—positioned along said transport section to push the bell towards the conveyor against the action of said elastic means.

Claim 5 (currently amended) The plant Plant—according to claim 4, characterized in that the actuator means comprise a lowering cam yoke (28)—of said support of the bell.

Claim 6 (currently amended) The plant Plant—according to claim 2, characterized in that it comprises a plurality of bells (22)—to act simultaneously on several products moved sequentially along said transport section.

Claim 7 (currently amended) The plant Plant—according to claim 2, characterized in that the suction and input means (23)—are supported by the carousel (24)—to be moved together with the bell.

Claim 8 (currently amended) The plant Plant—according to claim 1, characterized in that the continuous packing machine (12)—in modified atmosphere is the type comprising a roll of plastic film (14)—and means that unroll, conform into a tube and weld the film to create packs sequentially around products fed to it.

Claim 9 (currently amended) A device Device—for temporarily submitting in sequence food products that flow sequentially on a continuous conveyor (13)—to vacuum and to a modified atmosphere, comprising at least a bell (22)—connected to means (23)—for the suction of air from inside the bell it—and means for the input of modified atmosphere into the bell it, the bell being supported by movement means (24, 26)—for its synchronous movement along a transport section of the conveyor to enclose one of the food products a

product—under it in said section and submit said one of the food products ~~it~~ to said vacuum and to said modified atmosphere.

Claim 10 (currently amended) The device Device—according to claim 9, characterized in that the movement means comprise a carousel (24) for transporting the bell along a closed section that comprises said transport section of the conveyor and means (26, 28) for controlled lowering of the bell onto the conveyor.

Claim 11 (currently amended) The device Device—according to claim 9, characterized in that the controlled lowering means comprise a support (26) of the bell that can be lowered vertically against the action of the elastic means (27) for keeping the bell in a raised position and actuator means (28) placed along said transport section to push the bell towards the conveyor against the action of said elastic means.

Claim 12 (currently amended) The device Device—according to claim 11, characterized in that the actuator means comprise a cam yoke (28) for lowering said support of the bell.

Claim 13 (currently amended) The device Device—according to claim 9, characterized in that it comprises a plurality of bells to act simultaneously on several products moved sequentially along said transport section.

Claim 14 (currently amended) The device Device—according to claim 10, characterized in that the suction and input means (23) are supported by the carousel to be moved together with the bell.

Claim 15 (currently amended) The device Device—according to claim 14, characterized in that the suction and input means comprise a pump (23) for each bell.

Claim 16 (currently amended) The plant Device according to claim 2, characterized in that it comprises counter-bells (22b)-connected to means for suction of air from inside them and which are mobile, to be positioned in front of the bells (22)-and in contact with the other face of the transport surface of the conveyor, in the sense that vacuum is created that balances the action of vacuum of the bells (22)-on the conveyor.

Claim 17 (new) A plant for continuous packing of food products in modified atmosphere, comprising a machine for continuous packing in a modified atmosphere of the food products and a conveyor for continuous sequential feeding of the food products to the machine, wherein before the entrance of the machine, along a transport section of the conveyor near the entrance of the machine, means are present that temporarily submit the food products continuously fed by the conveyor sequentially to vacuum and a modified atmosphere before the food products are packed in modified atmosphere in the machine.